

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 17, 2010

**SUPREME COURT APPOINTS MARION ATTORNEY AS
CIRCUIT JUDGE**

The Supreme Court of Illinois announced Wednesday that Carolyn B. Smoot, an attorney for 27 years, has been appointed a resident circuit judge in the First Judicial Circuit.

Ms. Smoot was appointed to fill the Circuit Court seat which became vacant upon the November 1, 2010 retirement of Circuit Judge Ronald Eckiss. Her appointment is effective December 15, 2010 and will expire December 3, 2012, when the position will be filled by the winner of the 2012 General Election.

Since 1986, Ms. Smoot, 57, has been engaged in general private practice. In recent years, she has limited her practice to Family Law, Probate Law and Mediation. Since 1998, Ms. Smoot has also served as the Director of Paralegal Studies Program at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Prior to her general practice, she served as an assistant state's attorney for Williamson County.

Ms. Smoot received a B.A. degree in Social Welfare from Olivet Nazarene University in Kankakee, Illinois. She received her *juris doctor* degree from Southern Illinois University School of Law in 1983.

She was admitted to practice law in Illinois in 1983, and has also been admitted to practice in the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit and the United States District Court of Southern District of Illinois.

"I am very honored and humbled by this appointment. I deeply appreciate the confidence that Justice Karmeier and the Illinois Supreme Court have placed in me. I look forward to serving the people as a circuit judge; becoming the first woman judge in Williamson County makes my appointment that much more special."

Ms. Smoot was chosen in an application process that included review by a six-member screening committee appointed by Supreme Court Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier, who recommended Ms. Smoot to the Court.

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**Supreme Court Appoints Smoot as Circuit Judge
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Each applicant was interviewed and their credentials reviewed by members of the screening committee before forming a short list of recommended candidates to be interviewed by Justice Karmeier.

The screening committee members were: Chairman, Mr. Michael Maurizio of Marion, practicing law as owner and operator of the Maurizio Law Firm; Carey Gill of Carterville, practicing law with the firm of Barrett, Taylor, Broom, Hughes & Hoke; Retired First Judicial Circuit Judge Paul Murphy of Herrin; Charles Schmidt of Carterville, practicing law as a partner with the firm of Brandon, Schmidt & Goffinet; William Sherwood of Carterville, serving as Vice President/General Counsel for Southern Illinois Healthcare; and William Wilson of Marion, Retired First Judicial Circuit Associate Judge.

Williamson County is one of nine counties in the First Judicial Circuit; the First Judicial Circuit is also comprised of the southern Illinois counties of Alexander, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Saline and Union.

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**(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois
Supreme Court, at 312.793.2323)**